Country-wide strike by workers of unorganized sector

1166. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that workers of the unorganized sector went on country-wide strike on 8th August, 2007;

(b) if so, what are their main demands; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main demand was to enact two separate and comprehensive legislations for the Agricultural Workers and the Unorganised Sector workers covering all aspects of protection, including the conditions of work and social security.

(c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Central Advisory Committee on Beedi Workers Welfare Fund

1167. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Advisory Committee on Beedi Workers Welfare Fund was informed on 23rd June, 2006, that the non-collection of cess from small manufacturers of beedi less than that 20 lakh is being reconsidered by Government; and

(b) if so, the status of re-consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under examination.

Alleged anti-labour practices in ESI Corporation, West Bengal

1168. SHRI SK. KHABIRUDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the activities of Additional Commissioner and Regional Director of ESI Corporation, West Bengal indulging anti-labour practices in the organisation and closing nine branch offices; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to establish cohesive working atmosphere in the organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Based on a Work Study

Committee's report by the West Bengal Region in October, 2005, merger of the following nine Branch Offices with the nearest Branch Office was accepted/ordered by the ESI Corporation on 26.10.2005:

Sl. No.	Name of the Branch Office to be closed	Name of the Branch Office with which the Branch Office at Col.(2) was to be merged
1.	Ballygunge	Tollygunge
2.	Beliaghata	Dalhousie Sqr.
3.	Garden Reach	Paharpur
4.	Taratala	Brace Bridge
5.	North Kalipur	Kalipur
6.	Konnagar	South Rishra
7.	Shalimar	Shibpur
8.	Gorabazar	Dum Dum
9.	Kanthalpara	Naihaty

These Branch Offices under merger, with significantly low benefit payment position, had hitherto been functioning at different floors of the same building or in close proximity and the merger was to ensure economy in administrative expenditure, without causing inconvenience to the insured persons attached to these Branch Offices.

(b) The following steps have been/are being taken to establish cohesive working atmosphere in the organization:

(i) Appropriate steps have been taken by the Regional Administration of West Bengal to allay fears of staff regarding their deployment and inconvenience to insured persons.

(ii) A meeting with the office-bearers of All India ESIC Employees' Federation was held on 24-5-07, wherein the Federation representatives were informed that review of Branch Offices would be done keeping in view their viability as well as the services to be rendered to the insured persons.

(iii) A detailed work study in respect of the West Bengal Region including Barrackpore Sub-Region and Branch Offices attached to them, has since been ordered by Director General, ESI Corporation.

Graduate unemployed youths in Rajasthan

1169. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Graduate unemployed youths in Rajasthan, as on date;

(b) the details of the schemes, if any, formulated by Government for providing jobs to them; and